

ORIGIN/ACTION

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OSD	USIA	NSA
34		3
GUATEMALA	NSC	
2	6	

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AIRGRAM

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

DEPT PASS: GUATEMALA (2)

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUN 25 1 31 PM 1969

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
JUN 26 1969

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

RS/AN DATE:
ANALYSIS BRANCHSUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY: Chart of Incidents, May 1969
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDS/CR

REF

REVIEWED BY Cay DATE: OCT 1969
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. ~~Compilation of articles collected from published sources and complementary statistics contributed by the National Police both showed a sharp increase in possibly politically motivated violence during May. The upswing occurred in the face of a police announcement that they had uncovered plans for a FAR offensive during May and were taking suitable precautions. Then a FAR flyer later took credit for killing a "traitor to the cause."~~ Speculation that these events would cause the FAR to regroup and lie low

stay quiet during May

If, then, insurgent activity should have been at a low level, what accounts for the apparent statistical increase?

2. First, a review of how data in the chart is collected and collated is in order. In October 1967 (A-143), the Embassy submitted the first of its periodic charts depicting the level (by region) of incidents probably involving political motivation. Designed as yet another tool in analyzing Guatemala's internal security situation, the covering airgram stressed the chart's usefulness in terms of revealing "patterns of terrorism" but appended a number of caveats about the precision of the information.

Mathematical rendering of graphically portrayed data, however, may tend to mislead the reader about the accuracy of the raw information. Virtually all the basic data is drawn from the written press: GRAFICO, PRENSA LIBRE and IMPACTO (morning tabloids) and IMPARCIAL and LA HORA (evening dailies). We also screen approximately ten papers published outside the capital; they contain almost no information on political violence per se. Sometimes, however they serve to eliminate potential inclusions by indicating that some essentially apolitical motive was involved. These rural papers arrive sporadically and with frequent delays.

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Contents and Classification Approved by:

POL:MDSmith

Clearances:

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GUATEMALA A-

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Excluded are:

- a. All machete-type killings, bar room brawls, etc.
- b. Crimes that might otherwise be included but where subsequent evidence indicates that no political motives were involved. (Example: man in Zone 19 assassinated by two men carrying automatics--proved to be hired killers working for cuckolded husband.)

NOTE: The combination of

possible reprisal against the press by terrorist groups (especially effective against rural papers) and the scanty reporting received from outside Guatemala City indicate that the newspapers inadequately reflect the actual level of violence in rural areas. We have some confirmation of this from Mission officers working in the Northeast, but the distortion seems more or less constant--thus if the reported incidents increase, there is reason to believe that the actual level is increasing at a close to parallel rate. Accordingly, we are more likely to include some rural crimes on our list that would not be included if they had occurred in Guatemala City. We believe this compensates for some of the distortion.

6. Table I tabulates the number of incidents in each of 10 key Departments during the last several months:

TABLE I

DEPARTMENT	JAN	FEB	APRIL	MAY
Guatemala/Sacatepequez	8	12	15	28
Escuintla	4	4	5	6
San Marcos	1	1	--	--
Santa Rosa	1	--	3	--
Suchitepequez	4	3	2	1
Chiquimula	--	--	--	4
Jalapa	3	2	1	1
Jutiapa	1	1	--	2
Izabal	2	2	1	4
Zacapa	1	--	3	5
	25 of 25	23 of 27	30 of 35	51 of 54 nati wide

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GUATEMALA A-15

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b. An increase in the number of mysterious disappearances centered in Guatemala City, but perhaps extending into rural areas as well. Frequently the victim reappears unharmed but has no statement for the press. In the absence of any firm information on these cases, we speculate that some of the abductions stem from purely criminal motives, i.e., shakedowns, intimidation by business competitors or disgruntled spouses. Others may be due to Left and Right intimidations and ransom attempts.

c. An increased number of killings in the Northeast. It seems likely that a majority of this violence is attributable to Rightist "vigilante-type" groups which are said to have become active once again. Such killings cause reaction by partisans of the victims, who then attempt to retaliate by violence against members of the initiating group, and this results in "vendetta" violence. At that point, it becomes virtually impossible to detect what group initiated the violence--all that is certain is that it is indeed "politically" motivated.

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**Number arrested due to riots and/or demonstrations

Guatemala

41

ANNOTATED LIST OF INCIDENTS
WORK SHEET FOR MAY, 1969

N.B. - - Unless otherwise noted, following information is drawn strictly from one or more press accounts. Name of paper is sometimes included when believed that it influences story.

For chart purposes, incidents marked with "?" not included; those marked "x" listed only to give flavor to other data; "#" equivalent to number of incidents actually included on chart.

May

- 1 -X CONTRAGUA claims troops in Barrios posting propaganda for Arana. Army denies. CONTRAGUA later insists.
- X PMA's in Quetzaltenango get involved in drunken shoot out which brings in local military troops. Score - 2 dead.
- # Military announces that blast of machinegun fire at Air Force base was result of nervous guard. LA HORA sarcastically noted that must have fired rubber bullets, since shooting lasted 15 minutes.
- # In Zacapa two military officers ambushed by unknown men. One attacker said to have been killed. Officers escaped uninjured.

May

- 3 -# LA HORA reports railroad bridge in Izabal burned down by terrorists. None captured.

May

- 4 -# Employee at military base at Puerto Barrios shot and killed at Morales. Victim Orellana reportedly killed by Manuel Cabrera. No motive given.
 - X From Retalhuleu police report capturing six extortionists using name of FAR.
 - ## Three papers report 2 relatives ambushed and killed in El Zapote, Chiquimula at 2:00 a.m. Believed work of band "sowing terror in this area".
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31
32

31
32

International

May

- May

May

- May

May

- 03 25 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010 1011 1012 1013 1014 1015 1016 1017 1018 1019 1020 1021 1022 1023 1024 1025 1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 1033 1034 1035 1036 1037 1038 1039 1040 1041 1042 1043 1044 1045 1046 1047 1048

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May

11 -X-

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22

May

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X Col. Arana tells PRENSA LIBRE reporter that guerrilla movement could have been completely destroyed last year if the official party had worked in complete collaboration with President Mendez.

13 ~~14~~ Body of Armando Lopez found in Izabal strangled.

- May

- # A Lopez machinegunned by unknown men at Los Amates.

DECEMBER 1967

May

21 -X Five youths captured in Escuintla while driving in car containing machinegun. Said to be band of extortionists using name of FAR to get up to \$500 every two weeks for protection. (See also car robbers)

May

22 -X IMPACTO reports number of people killed in Nueva Concepcion since end of 1967 now totals 157. Says 1,300 troops swept area in latest attempt which reaped 70 undocumented persons.

X Maria Consuela Pista shot at while returning home from shopping trip at 11 p.m. by unidentified men from moving car. Later seemed involved in personal problems.

May

23 -# Unidentified long dead body recovered from El Zapote in Zone 2.

May

24 -# Bomb explodes at La Merced Pharmacy that used to belong to municipal councilman Paiz. See earlier attack. Mystery surrounds one of pharmacy detail men Antonio Rivera who disappeared night before bombing to return three days later making no comment to press after family had searched for him.

X In Mazatenango local citizenry requests increased vigilance by PMSs. Says minimum number should be 30.

In Chiquimula home of Antonio Sandoval attacked by unidentified men. Lasero Lopez in house killed during attack. Police have arrested two in spite of fact group described as unidentified.

May

25 -# Pinto wounded in ambush in Zacapa.

Pablo Santos killed by two unidentified automatic armed men on INTA parcella near San Jose.

In Zacapa riddled body of brother of Gabriel and Juan Ramirez Chacon located. On 28th, police say have captured 2, no motives given, say others involved.

Escuintla - unidentified machinegun riddled body found near highway.

In Jalapa, Hector Contreras del Cid machinegunned by unknown men.

X Body of Alejandro Diez found in Rio Blanco, Izabal. Juan Mansilla ~~accused of murder because of long time personal differences.~~

DECEMBER 1967

[illegible]

May

25 -? In Ascencion Mita Emilio Flores Peralta killed while drinking in cantina by Juan Jose Castillo.

May

26 -X Disappearance of Garcia and Pineda, two 14 year old students after leaving home in Zone 1.

? In Jalapa, body of 52 year old Hernandez Ballat found with head
bashed in. Said to be well known pacific person respected by
neighbors.

May

27 -# House of Jorge Pasarelli A. bombed in Zone 14, no loss of life.

At 9 p.m. judicial police reportedly located an incendiary bomb in Zone 1 that had failed to explode.

? Two customs police fired on in Malacatan, San Marcos, by two unknown men. One man, Dionisio Rene Merida Garcia, captured reportedly with grenade in possession (but no pistol).

X Julia Morales asks habeas corpus for Miguel Aguilar Palacios who was reportedly picked up in Zone 19 some days ago.

May

28 -# Sabotage in Zone 12 when someone steals hundreds of yards of telegraph cable.

Two men arrested for distributing FAR GUERRILLERO's in Zone 9.

May

29 -X Jesus OLIVA (MCI) claims Esaú LOPEZ Mattheu tried to kidnap his daughter.

In Catarina San Marcos Teodoro Barrios Kuncce machinegunned to death by three men who dragged him from house, beat him up then shot him.

May

30 -# Byron SAGASTUME Calderon, ex MDN and MLN wheel in Chiquimula assassinated by three youths carrying automatics as he was working as a guard at market in Zone 6. Believed FAR job.

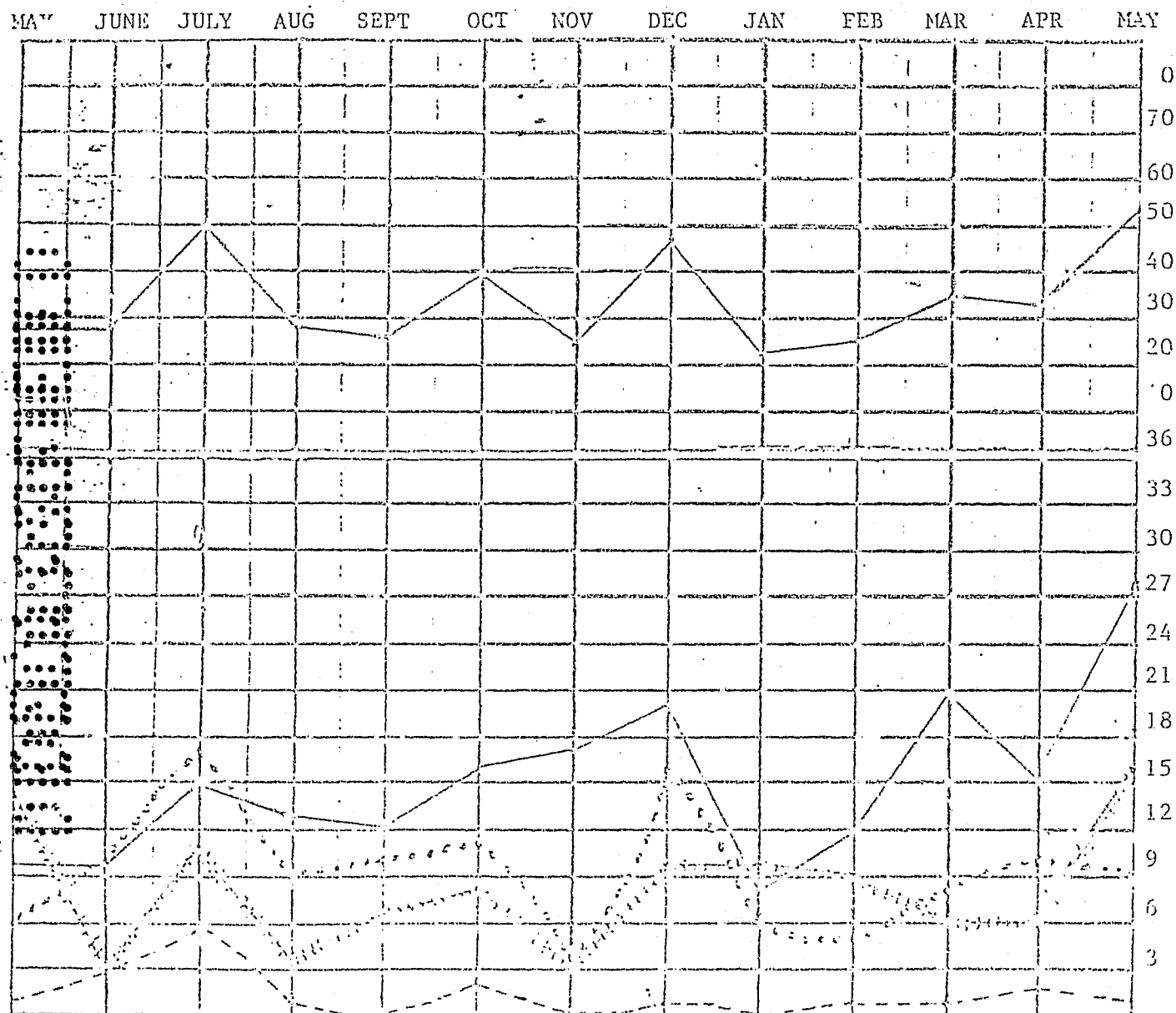
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CONFIDENTIAL (1)
MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF TERRORIST RELATED INCIDENTS BY REGION
MAY 1968 - MAY 1969

Enclosure #3

A 155 Guatemala

AKA



Total 54

Capital 28 (2)

East 16 (4)

South Coast 9 (1)

Highlands 1 (5)

- (1.) For purposes of this graph both acts of violence includes shootings, bombings, etc., and assassinated bodies.
- (2.) Capital Area: Sacatepequez, Guatemala.
- (3.) South Coast: San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa.
- (4.) Eastern Region: Jutiapa, Jalapa, El Progreso, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal.
- (5.) Highlands: Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetanango, El Quiché, Baja Verapaz, Alto Verapaz, Solola.

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